

Message Text

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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON RHODESIA

1. FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT MADE BY PRESIDENT FORD AT
1600 EDT SEPTEMBER 24, AFTER IAN SMITH'S BROADCAST
TO RHODESIA

2. BEGIN TEXT: I AM VERY PLEASED TO HEAR OF THE
ANNOUNCEMENT TODAY BY IAN SMITH OF RHODESIA. ON BEHALF
OF THE RHODESIAN AUTHORITIES HE HAS ACCEPTED PROPO-
SALS THAT CAN HEAD OFF AN ESCALATING CONFLICT AND
SHOULD PRODUCE NEGOTIATIONS WHICH CAN BRING SOUTHERN
AFRICA CLOSER TO PEACE.

3. THE UNITED STATES IS PROUD TO HAVE MADE A CONTRI-
BUTION. BUT WE HAVE NOT DONE SO ALONE. THE PRINCI-
PLES OF THE SETTLEMENT SET FORTH TODAY ARE BASED ON
THE PLAN OUTLINED BY BRITISH PRIME MINISTER CALLAGHAN
ON MARCH 22. I WISH TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE PRIME
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MINISTER AND TO THE UNITED KINGDOM WITH WHOM WE HAVE

CLOSELY COOPERATED. FARSIGHTED AND INDISPENSABLE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE ALSO MADE BY THE VARIOUS AFRICAN PRESIDENTS. I WOULD LIKE AS WELL TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE CON-

STRUCTIVE ROLE PLAYED BY PRIME MINISTER VORSTER OF SOUTH AFRICA.

4. THE ROAD IS NOW OPEN FOR AN AFRICAN SOLUTION TO AN AFRICAN PROBLEM -- FREE OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, VIOLENCE AND BITTERNESS. THIS HAS BEEN THE OBJECTIVE OF THE UNITED STATES AND THE PURPOSE OF THE SKILLFUL AND ENERGETIC DIPLOMACY WE HAVE PURSUED. WE CALL ON OTHER COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT, NOT IMPEDE, THE AFRICAN SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

5. THE UNITED STATES IS PREPARED TO CONTINUE TO HELP. WE WILL NOT PRESCRIBE FOR THE PEOPLES OF AFRICA WHAT ONLY THEY CAN BRING ABOUT. BUT WE WILL BE AVAILABLE TO LEND OUR FULL SUPPORT TO THE EFFORTS OF THE BRITISH, THE RHODESIANS OF BOTH RACES, AND THE AFRICAN STATES CONCERNED.

6. IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT THE SEVERAL PARTIES WILL NOW MOVE SWIFTLY TO ESTABLISH THE CONDITIONS FOR INDEPENDENCE IN WHICH ALL OF ITS PEOPLES CAN LIVE TOGETHER IN HARMONY. TODAY WE HAVE SEEN AN ACT OF REALISM THAT IS THE FIRST STEP TOWARD THAT GOAL. WITH GOOD WILL ON ALL SIDES THAT VISION CAN BECOME A REALITY.

7. A THREAT TO WORLD PEACE HAS BEEN EASED. WE CAN TAKE SATISFACTION IN THE ROLE WE HAVE PLAYED. I EXTEND MY BEST WISHES TO THE PEOPLES OF RHODESIA AND OF ALL AFRICA. I CALL ON ALL NATIONS TO HELP THEM SHAPE A FUTURE OF PEACE, PROSPERITY AND HUMAN DIGNITY. END TEXT.

KISSINGER

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